

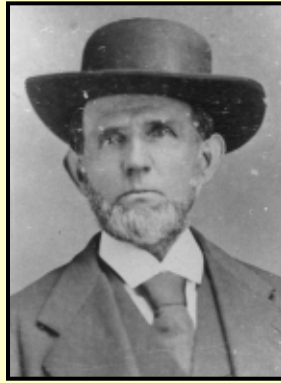
DUKE HOMESTEAD



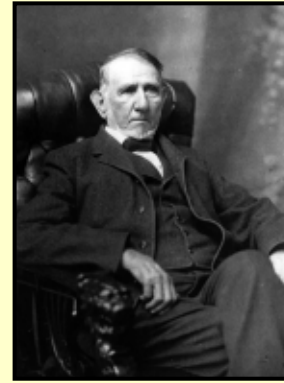
Prosperity from War



When North Carolina became the last state to secede from the Union in May 1861, Washington Duke's small farm and homestead here consisted of more than 300 acres. He grew typical crops such as corn, wheat, oats, and sweet potatoes, and had raised cotton as a cash crop until it failed late in the 1850s, when he began cultivating bright-leaf tobacco. Drafted into the Confederate Navy in September 1863, Duke was soon captured and imprisoned in Richmond, Va. He was



Washington Duke (1880) – *Courtesy of Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum*

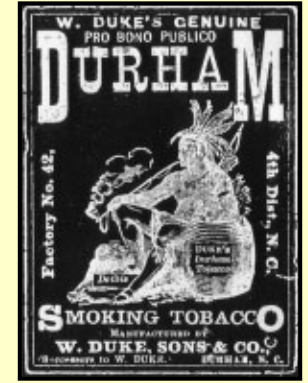


Washington Duke (1900) – *Courtesy of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University*

released after the war and sent to New Bern, N.C. He then walked 134 miles back to his homestead. Duke discovered that soldiers encamped here had consumed most of his stored tobacco while Gens. Joseph E. Johnston and William T. Sherman negotiated the Confederate surrender nearby at James and Nancy Bennett's farm, now Bennett Place State Historic Site. Fortunately, the soldiers left enough tobacco for Duke and his family to produce "Pro Bono Publico" ("for the public good") brand smoking tobacco. Its popularity encouraged

the Dukes to manufacture other, equally popular brands, largely purchased by former soldiers who introduced bright-leaf tobacco to their communities. The Duke family soon prospered, and W. Duke, Sons and Company eventually grew into one of the largest trusts in the world, the American Tobacco Company.

Within a decade of the end of the war, Duke and other local entrepreneurs, such as Julian S. Carr and Brodie L. Duke (Washington's eldest son), established the Durham tobacco factories and textile mills that fueled the recovery of war-stricken North Carolina. Now renovated into shops, restaurants, and offices, the red brickwork and architectural details of the century-old facilities contribute to Durham's unique sense of place.



"Pro Bono Publico" logo – *Courtesy of Duke Homestead State Historic Site and Tobacco Museum*



Washington Duke with his first tobacco factory. – *Courtesy of Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University*